

March 19, 1969

Mr. Michael A. Aronson  
Assistant Director  
Indiana University Press  
Tenth and Morton Streets  
Bloomington, Indiana 47401

Dear Mr. Aronson:

Thank you for your letter of March 14, and especially for reminding me of your continued interest in a reissue of Haldane's essays.

I have been in some <sup>recent</sup> ~~intimate~~ correspondence with Helen Spurway about this and would like to take up the matter again. As there may have been some misunderstanding among several of us about what the intentions were, let me restate a specific proposal de novo.

I would propose to help to select a volume of essays from among the works that have already been published but are not out of print. I have in mind a selection from among the following works: "Possible Worlds", "A Banned Broadcast", "The Inequality of Man", "Daedalus", and a particularly important essay that appeared in the Modern Quarterly in 1949 entitled "In Defense of Genetics".

I would offer to take responsibility for the selection of the items, to write an introduction, and to a limited extent, to annotate the essays where it appeared important to me to indicate where the facts had overtaken or, in some cases, particularly forcefully indicated Haldane's previsions. Needless to say, I would take particular care to distinguish my own remarks from his writings.

I do not propose to take any fee myself for these services and would quitclaim any interest in them to Helen Spurway.

I must, however, ask of you that you clear up the question of obtaining the rights to republish these materials, and suggest that you deal directly with Helen Spurway, in the first instance, in making the necessary arrangements. Most of the above mentioned works were published originally by Chatto and Windus; Daedalus was published in 1923 by Kegan, Paul in London.

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I trust you will be able to make an agreement directly with Dr. Spurway, and if all this is agreeable to you, that you will then let me know that I may proceed with my own part of it.

Helen Spurway has also brought up the question of collecting some further of Haldane's works that have not yet appeared in print, an enterprise in which his former student, Dr. Jayakar may also have some interest. I believe that this is also well worth pursuing, but for purposes of clarity let me reemphasize that this is not the project to which I refer at the present time.

My own interest in this matter is entirely to make Haldane's work more widely known and readily available, and should you find some other way of achieving that goal, please do not hesitate to pursue it regardless of my own suggestions.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

cc: Dr. Helen Spurway  
1-1-593/A, Gandhinagar,  
Bakaram, Hyderabad-20,  
Andhra Pradesh, India

HABSHIKUDA 16

HYDERABAD 7

INDIA

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P.S. It occurs to me that one of the possible sources of confusion may have to do with claims that might be made by Charlotte Haldane on some of the rights. There are hints of this in Clark's biography, as noted on the enclosed pages. I mention this just so that you may take care to see to it that there is a crisp determination of who is entitled to sign them over for republication. I would also note that Harper Brothers was acknowledged in Dronamraju's edition as the American publishers of "The Inequality of Man".

J. L.